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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In Re: Application Ser. No. 09/834,848 : Art Unit 1775

JUN 15 2004

Filed 4/13/01 : Exr. J. Zimmerman

TC 1700

Inventors Hougham et al. : Atty.Dkt. No. YOR920000548US1

For: DEFORMABLE COATED WICK LIQUID SPILLED MATERIAL TRANSFER

RESPONSE TO 12/02/03 OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O.Box 1450
Alexandria, Va. 22313 - 1450

Sir:

In response to the 12/02/03 Office action in the above identified patent application the following is advanced. Authorization is provided herewith for debit of Deposit Account 50-0510 for the fee for this response in the third month following the shortened statutory period . currently estimated to be \$950.00.

Overview

In the light of the art and application thereof by the examiner claims 6, 9 - 11 are being cancelled herewith and the remaining claims 16 and 17 are being amended herewith to specify a structure and process directed to a deformable hand tool in collecting and transporting spilled mercury. Examiner's comments pointing out lack of definiteness are much appreciated and are incorporated in the amended claims.

The Claim amendment instructions are in Section "A" as follows